

# Human Trafficking

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## Sex and Labor

- Sex trafficking is the crime of using force, fraud or coercion to induce another individual to perform commercial sex. Common types include escort services, illicit massage businesses, brothels, outdoor solicitation.
- Labor trafficking is the crime of using force, fraud or coercion to induce another individual to work or provide service. Common types include agriculture, domestic work, restaurants, cleaning services, and carnivals.

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## Myth #1 *It's a violent kidnapping*



Truth: most human traffickers use psychological means such as tricking, grooming, manipulating or threatening victims into providing commercial sex or exploitative labor.

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## Myth #2

- Only women and girls can be victims and survivors of sex trafficking



Truth: It's estimated that as many as half of sex trafficking victims and survivors are male



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## Myth #3

- Human trafficking involves moving or transporting a person across state or national borders



▪ Truth: Human trafficking is often confused with human smuggling, which involves illegal border crossings. In fact, victims may be trafficked in their own homes



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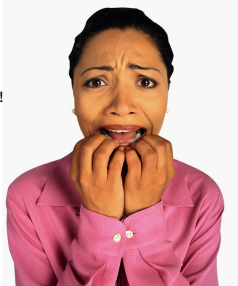
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## Myth #4

- All commercial sex is human trafficking

Truth: HB 571 made that statement true for minors!  
For adults, look for **FORCE, FRAUD OR COERCION**



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**Myth #5**

▪ People being trafficked are physically unable to leave their situations/locked in/held against their will



▪ Truth: Complicated situations: fear for children or family, homelessness, manipulation



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STATS ACCORDING TO SHARED HOPE, INTERNATIONAL



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**Who are the victims??**

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## Risk Factors & Vulnerabilities

*\*Victims come from all socio-economic backgrounds, races/ethnicities, ages, genders, and sexualities.*

- Homeless, runaway child/youth
- Child/youth in foster care system or history of CPS contacts
- History or abuse—especially sexual abuse
- History of contact with juvenile justice system
- Substance abuse
- Mental health or developmental/intellectual challenges
- Interpersonal violence
- Poverty—not able to provide for self/basic needs
- Gang involvement/contact

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## Adverse Childhood Experiences

Abuse	Household Challenges	Neglect
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Emotional:</b> parent, stepparent, or adult living in your home swore at you, insulted you, put you down, or acted in a way that made you afraid that you might be physically hurt. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Physical:</b> parent, stepparent, or adult living in your home pushed, grabbed, slapped, threw something at you, or hit you so hard that you had marks or were injured. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Sexual:</b> An adult, relative, family friend, or stranger who was at least 5 years older than you ever touched or fondled your body in a sexual way, made you touch his/her body in a sexual way, attempted to have any type of sexual intercourse with you.	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Mother treated violently:</b> Your mother or stepmother was pushed, grabbed, slapped, had something thrown at her, kicked, bitten, hit with a fist, hit with something hard, repeatedly hit for over at least a few minutes, or ever threatened or hurt by a knife or gun by your father (or stepfather) or mother's boyfriend. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Household substance abuse</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Mental illness in household</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Parental separation or divorce</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Criminal household member</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Emotional neglect:</b> Someone in your family helped you feel important or special, you felt loved, people in your family looked out for each other and felt close to each other, and your family was a source of strength and support. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Physical neglect:</b> There was someone to take care of you, protect you, and take you to the doctor if you needed it; you didn't have enough to eat, your parents were too drunk or too high to take care of you, and you had to wear dirty clothes.

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## Possible Trafficking Red Flags

- Not free to leave or come and go
- Under 18 and is providing commercial sex acts
- In commercial sex industry and has pimp/madam
- Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Not in control of his/her own money, and/or has no financial records, or bank account
- Works excessively long/unusual hours
- Not allowed breaks/suffers unusual restrictions at work
- Overcrowded/substandard living conditions



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## Grooming & Recruiting Tactics

- Seduction: social media, boyfriend/girlfriend, familial relationship
- Befriending/peer recruitment
- Family obligations: rent, medication, siblings, jail/prison
- Glamour: manicures, hair, clothing
- Parental/familial grooming–exploitation
- Coercion, threats, violence, fraud
- Sextortion



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## Grooming & Recruiting Tactics

### MEET THE NEEDS

- Food, shelter, transportation, financial support
- Emotional manipulation
  - “You’re too beautiful to be so sad.”
  - “If you were my girl, you would have everything you want.”
  - “You’re family doesn’t care about you.”

### SELL THE DREAM

- Pictures of cars, shoes, money, drugs
- Freedom–party lifestyle
- Travel/fantasy
- Family, protection, loyalty



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## Familial Trafficking Grooming

- Early introduction to sexual contact
- Normalizes sexual behaviors
- Praise/rewards productive encounters
- Lack of protection from outside danger
- Constant exposure to risk
- Require silence, submission—keep it in the family
- Use of violence/rape to punish
- Enforces strict rules of compliance
- Threaten abandonment or separation by authorities



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- Recruitment of vulnerable children
- Seduction through offers of gifts, support, friendship, love
- Isolation from others who may stop exploitation
- Coercion into actions such as prostitution, pornography
- Violence/abuse/introduction to drugs to retain control

### Common Stages of CSEC

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children



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- Can be men, women, even children
- May be former HT victims
- May be members of a trafficking network, including people performing roles such as recruiters, transporters, groomers, security, enforcers, and financiers
- May be a single individual
- Family members (even parents)

## Who Are the Traffickers?



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## WHY??? Show Me the Money!

### PIMP

- Two girls: \$500 a night quota
- Each night: \$1,000
- One year: \$365,000
- *Endless supply, few people to pay, low risk of folks testifying against you*

### COCAINE DEALER

- Greater financial outlays
- Must buy more product in order to sell more
- Must deal with extremely dangerous people
- *Limited supply, many people involved, easy to get folks to testify against you, MORE RISK!!!!!!*

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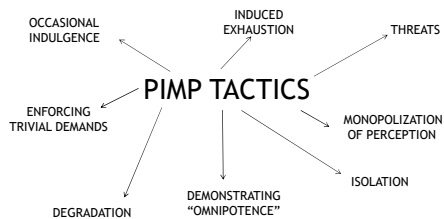
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## Biderman's Chart of Coercion



KLAAS KIDS FOUNDATION

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May have been "branded" by the trafficker



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## Mississippi's problem

- The Center for Violence Prevention's rapid response advocates have responded to an average of 150 victims per year with 30-50 of those being minors.
- The common risk factors that result in vulnerability to trafficking are pervasive in Mississippi – poverty, lack of education, lack of family support, and running away from home.
- The lack of preparedness to screen and care for victims and identify and prosecute offenders.



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## Mississippi's problem

- Desperate need of long-term recovery placements
- NO beds for children
- Child victims are routinely sent to detention centers or returned home. Little or no screening occurs. Majority of HT victims are also child SA victims
- Dozens of Mississippi children are missing from state custody.
- Runaway and homeless youth are vulnerable to trafficking. A study found that 56 percent of prostituted women were initially runaway youth



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## Human Trafficking Laws

- **Sex trafficking** occurs when someone uses **force, fraud, or coercion** or cause a commercial sex act with an adult or causes a **minor** to commit a commercial sex act.
- **Force, fraud, and coercion** are the keys for adult victims. The individual must have committed the commercial sex act due to force, fraud, or coercion.
- **OR**
- **Be under age 18.** Proof of force, fraud, or coercion is **NOT** needed if the child is under 18.
  - Children under age 18 CANNOT consent to prostitution.
  - "Child prostitutes" do not exist.
  - Any child under age 18 who is being prostituted is a **victim**.
  - That a minor consented to his or her involvement is **NOT** a defense.
  - Defendant's belief the minor was 18 or older is **NOT** a defense to the crime.



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## Mississippi's Human Trafficking Law

- The Mississippi Human Trafficking Act is found at Miss. Code §§ 97-3-54 through 97-3-54.9.
- MHTA pertains to forced labor and forced commercial sexual activity of both minors and adults.
- Three human trafficking crimes outlined:
  - human trafficking
  - procuring involuntary servitude
  - procuring sexual servitude of a minor
- A "minor" is any person under 18 years old. § 97-3-54.4(k)



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## Mississippi's Human Trafficking Law

**Human Trafficking:** "A person who coerces, recruits, entices, harbors, transports, provides or obtains by any means, or attempts to coerce, recruit, entice, harbor, transport, provide or obtain by any means, another person, intending or knowing that the person will be subjected to forced labor or services, or who benefits, whether financially or by receiving anything of value from participating in an enterprise that he knows or reasonably should have known has engaged in such acts, shall be guilty of the crime of human trafficking." § 97-3-54.1 (1)(a)

- "Services" means "an ongoing relationship between a person and the actor in which the person performs activities under the supervision of or for the benefit of the actor or a third party and includes, without limitation, commercial sexual activity, sexually explicit performances, or the production of sexually explicit materials." § 97-3-54.4(o)
- "Commercial sexual activity" is defined as "any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to, promised to, or received by any person." § 97-3-54.4(e)
  - "Anything of value" - does not have to be cash. Could be drugs, rent, clothes, cell phone, transportation, etc.



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## Mississippi's Human Trafficking Law

**Procuring Involuntary Servitude:** "A person who knowingly purchases the forced labor or services of a trafficked person or who otherwise knowingly subjects, or attempts to subject, another person to forced labor or services or who benefits, whether financially or by receiving anything of value from participating in an enterprise that he knows or reasonably should have known has engaged in such acts, shall be guilty of the crime of procuring involuntary servitude." § 97-3-54.1 (1)(b)

**Procuring Sexual Servitude of a Minor:** "A person who knowingly subjects, or attempts to subject, or who recruits, entices, harbors, transports, provides or obtains by any means, or attempts to recruit, entice, harbor, transport, provide or obtain by any means, a minor, knowing that the minor will engage in commercial sexual activity, sexually explicit performance, or the production of sexually oriented material, or causes or attempts to cause a minor to engage in commercial sexual activity, sexually explicit performance, or the production of sexually oriented material, shall be guilty of procuring sexual servitude of a minor." § 97-3-54.1 (1)(c)



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## Mississippi Law: Perpetrators

- **Human trafficking:**
  - Any person who attempts to or does recruit, entice, harbor, transport, provide, or obtain another person "intending or knowing that the person will be subjected to forced labor or services" will be guilty of **human trafficking**.
  - Also, any person who benefits - financially or by receiving anything of value - from participating in an enterprise engaged in such activity is guilty of **human trafficking**.
- **Procuring involuntary servitude:**
  - A person "who knowingly purchases the forced labor or services of a trafficked person" is guilty of **procuring involuntary servitude**.



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## Mississippi Law: Perpetrators

**Traffickers/Johns/Facilitators all treated the same under the MHTA -**

"A person who knowingly aids, abets or conspires with one or more persons to violate the Mississippi Human Trafficking Act shall be considered a principal in the offense and shall be indicted and punished as such whether the principal has been previously convicted or not." § 97-3-54.3

- "Traffickers" are those who recruit, enable, assist, or benefit from the sexual exploitation of another person for monetary or other non-monetary gain.
- "Facilitators" are those who assist, enable, or financially benefit from sex trafficking - are treated the same as traffickers. (Third parties like truck stop managers or hotel owners.)
- "Johns" are purchasers of commercial sex; paying money or giving non-monetary items of value in exchange for sex.
- Under Mississippi law, johns can be punished to the same extent that pimps are punished.



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## Penalties

- Penalties for human trafficking and procuring involuntary servitude:
  - If the trafficked victim is older than 18: two to 20 years in prison and/or a fine of \$10,000 to \$100,000
  - If the trafficked victim is a minor: 20 years to life in prison and/or a fine of \$20,000 to \$100,000.
- No statute of limitations for prosecuting human trafficking offenses.



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## Minor Victims

- Minors are always victims, not criminals.
- A "minor who has been identified as a victim of trafficking shall not be liable for criminal activity in violation of this section." Miss. Code § 97-3-54.1(4).
- A minor involved in prostitution related activity as a direct result of being trafficked is immune from prosecution. Miss. Code §§ 97-29-49(4), 97-29-51(3).
- These victims should be taken to the hospital or to a shelter immediately.
- They should not be taken to juvenile detention unless it is necessary for their protection.



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## Reporting

- The Mississippi Child Protection Act requires mandatory reporting by law enforcement, clergy, film processors, teachers, childcare providers, and medical professionals if they suspect a sex crime against a minor has occurred. Miss. Code § 97-5-51.
- **Anyone** (not just mandatory reporters) who suspects a minor is being trafficked "shall immediately make a report" to DHS/CPS and to the Human Trafficking Coordinator at the MBI. Miss. Code Ann. § 97-3-54.1(4).
- When a minor is taken into custody for suspected involvement in prostitution related activity, law enforcement must immediately notify DHS/CPS, who "shall commence an initial investigation into suspected child sexual abuse or neglect[.]" Miss. Code § 97-29-49.
- All child abuse cases, which includes children who have been trafficked, must be reported to CPS and to the AG's Office. Miss. Code §§ 43-21-105, 43-21-103.
- Document everything and report immediately.
- Call FBI if the situation crosses state lines.
- Contact a Certified Victim Advocate at 601-360-8701.



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## Legislative Updates

### HB 571

- Minors can no longer be charged with prostitution.
- LEO can take minors engaged in prostitution into emergency custody in accordance with the Youth Court Act.
- CPS is required to create a specialized plan for minors who have been victims of human trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation.
- Multidisciplinary teams may be created for victims of human trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation, and experts in those areas are allowed to be on the MDT.
- Requires CPS to maintain a statewide hotline for receiving reports of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.
- Requires that mandatory reports of suspected abuse of minors be reported to CPS.

### HB 1559

- Creates Training Board to certify HT Investigators
- Creates a CPS Statewide Coordinator for HT Cases
- Creates Rapid Rapid Assessment Team (CPS Investigator, Certified HT Investigator, Certified Victim Advocate)
- Rapid Assessment Teams must be formed within 24 hours of CPS receiving a tip of human trafficking



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## Rapid Response (The first 24 Hours)

*Advocate: What Does Recovery Look Like?*

### Health

- Physical Exam
- Forensic Exam
- STI Treatment
- Testing for Pregnancy, HIV, Syphilis

### Restoration

- Rehab
- Education
- Employment
- Life Skills

### Emotional

- Therapy
- Include the family when possible

### Legal

- Criminal
- Civil



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## What Should You Do?

- Contact local law enforcement.
- Call the **National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-3737-888**. They are open 24 hours a day/7 days a week.
- If a minor, call **Child Protective Services at 1-800-222-8000**.
- Reach out to a victim advocate. Call the **TOWER at 601-360-8701**.



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The Tower, The Center for Violence Prevention's human trafficking program, provides trauma-informed mid to long term care for victims. Serving as Mississippi's ONLY long-term recovery program for adult victims, The Tower works to achieve victim safety, recovery, and restoration.

### Services for Victims of Human Trafficking

- Shelter
- Case Management
- Advocacy
- Therapeutic Services
- Education and Awareness
- Rapid Response Advocates



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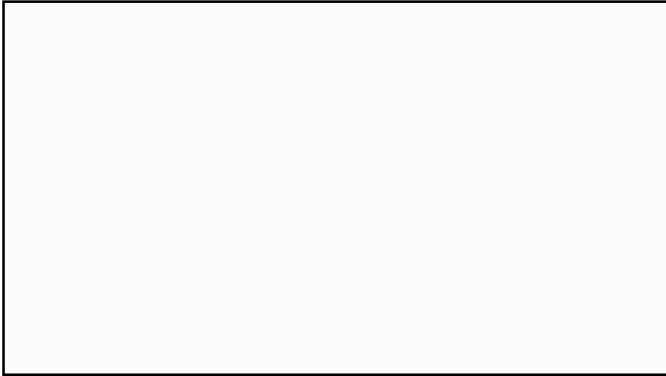
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## RESOURCES

- Mississippi: The Center for Violence Prevention 24-hour crisis line 800-266-4198 or 601-932-4198  
[www.mscvp.org](http://www.mscvp.org) Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter at @msc4vp
- National hotline: Polaris Project 888-3737-888  
[www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org)



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## More problems:

- Only one human trafficking shelter/facility in the state: The Tower (located in the Jackson area)
- Adult victims are often held in detention centers, where they are not recognized as victims and are charged with prostitution. They do not receive any recovery treatment.
- Some adults who are recognized as victims are sent to domestic violence shelters, but they displace and endanger domestic violence victims.
- Foreign victims are immediately deported instead of being given protection and treatment, in order for law enforcement to access their witness statements to prosecute offenders.



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## What is The Center doing?

- Legislation has been passed criminalizing human trafficking, BUT studies prove that it takes a coordinated response with law enforcement and victim services to have any real effect.
  - The Center has worked with local law enforcement to form five operational task forces
  - The Center has opened a forensic clinic, The Bridge
- The Center has spent six years planning with policy experts across the country to implement an evidence-based response.
  - Rapid response advocates assigned to each task force
  - SANEs available to task forces for forensic evidence



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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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